8. **Harness the State's hydro and wind resources.** Mt. Washington is one of the windiest places on earth! Today's windmill technology is highly advanced and very reliable.

While I find it somewhat encouraging that the Office of Energy and Community Service is undertaking the Energy Plan to proactively promote renewable energy, I also remain skeptical absent evidence that the sitting Administration is taking affirmative steps to do its own internal regulatory housekeeping. In the meantime, I fear that the opportunities and creative ideas advanced through the Energy Plan will continue to be squandered by the bureaucrats. Our State's economy and our taxpayers can ill-afford this mismanagement.

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its Energy Plan. Failing this, we can be assured that they are merely paying lip service to renewable energy policy.

1. **Adopt a Renewable Portfolio Standard** (RPS) for electric power generation and supply, whereby at least 10% of the State's power generation mix is met by renewable sources. Some 10 states have passed RPS regulations and another dozen or so are deliberating on them. The rationale is to internalize the public benefit from renewable energy sources while avoiding environmental impact and dependence for the delivery and use of fossil fuels.
2. **Adopt a more equitable regulatory policy that does not discriminate against renewable energy projects.** To illustrate, most trash burning plants spend about ***one-fourth*** of their total costs on environmental controls to meet permit requirements, versus an estimated 10% or less for conventional power plants. Yet, even though trash burners are among the cleanest sources of renewable energy, regulators continue to enforce even stricter controls on these plants while showing leniency towards conventional power plants. It should come as no surprise, then, that it costs more to produce electricity from trash than from gas, oil or coal.
3. **Streamline the permitting process by recruiting new staff with hands-on practical renewable energy experience**. Often, regulators lacking practical business experience fail to recognize, *or even care about* the cost implications of the theoretically based permit conditions they impose, arguing that the added controls are "in the public interest." I've even had a regulator mandating to me the *color of the power plant* as an *air permit* condition, citing that the color was in the "public interest!" Bureaucracy run amuck! (Fortunately this was not in New Hampshire)
4. **Promote leading-edge technologies by providing economic incentives such as tax credits, expedited permitting or energy price premiums.** In California, for example, landfill gas is being developed under conditional permits, for use in natural gas fueled trash trucks to reduce exhaust emissions. Similarly, Sterling Cycle engines are being employed for electric production by using waste heat from combustion plants. Methane derived from anaerobic digestion of sewage sludge or manures can also be generated to produce electricity.
5. **Adopt a tax incentive or price premium for renewables-based distributed power generation** to relieve the burden of capacity-constrained transmission lines.
6. **Promote a market for trading greenhouse gas and other emissions offsets credits from renewable energy facilities.** In some States, for example, renewable energy plants are being compensated for emissions credits from the reduction in vehicle emissions that would otherwise result from transporting fuels to/from remote locations.
7. **To stimulate wood waste/energy projects, implement a proactive best practice policy for prudent forest management.** It should include selective thinning and cutting of dead, diseased, and overgrown trees in the State's vast forest resource. Such a program can ensure improved standing timber while providing for a recurring fuel stream for energy production. A good place to start is on the newly acquired, former IP conservation forestland by franchising good forest management practice.

Ambitious Energy Plans but Incongruous Energy Policy

Dear Editor Connelly:

I read with interest your ***Portsmouth Herald*** Editorial of May 4 and the accompanying front-page article concerning Renewable Energy. I regret having been unable to attend last Thursday's forum here on the Seacoast hosted by Rep. Norelli. Hopefully this letter might spark some attention.

I must say, that the State House should start by ***looking from within*** for some of the simplest solutions to promoting a more proactive energy policy. To quote from the old comic strip, Pogo, "We have met the enemy and they are us." Indeed, one of the most pervasive limitations in promoting new clean energy sources is the Governor's own archaic regulatory policy. It fails to deal with environmental issues on an even-handed way, making it highly onerous for developers of energy projects (particularly for renewables) to get permits for the very technologies, which the State House alleges to promote.

Having said this, let's address the specific issues impeding renewable energy. I have spent nearly my entire professional career of over 30 years successfully developing renewable energy projects nationwide, which burn fuels such as waste wood, trash, bio-solids, landfill gas, culm (waste coal), tires and bagasse as well as hydro, among others. My company, ***Afendra Group***, advises clients in the development, design, financing, permitting and implementation of renewable energy technologies. In addition, it does economic impact analyses of Federal and State public energy policy programs. I must assert, looking nationally across the landscape of States permitting renewables, New Hampshire compares unfavorably. While our State enjoys an abundance of renewable, indigenous fuels and resources, getting the environmental permits to capitalize on these resources becomes a multi-year, very expensive and highly frustrating exercise dealing with regulators with little or no practical experience in the technologies. Although for the most part well intentioned, their solution to their own uncertainty is to impose increasingly stringent environmental controls on these projects, thereby driving capital and operating costs to non-competitive levels, all under the banner of "protecting the public interest". Meanwhile, nearby fossil fuel power plants are allowed to continue to spew black soot into the atmosphere and unsuitably treated wastewater into our rivers and streams. Indeed, even the State's own steam plant in the heart of the University of New Hampshire can be seen emitting a dark plume over its campus….. hardly a level playing field, is it? Exacerbating the problem, while one State Agency is driving up cost to non-competitive levels, another is proclaiming that renewable energy should not be subsidized. One could label this the "hypocrisy of the bureaucracy!"

If the Office of Energy and Community Service is truly interested in promoting renewable energy, perhaps it should include the following actions as policy solutions in